

# QUALIFYING PROCEDURES FOR TENNESSEE CANDIDATES FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR

1. **Qualifications.** To seek or hold the office of United States Senator, a person must be at least 30 years of age, a citizen of the United States for 9 years, and a Tennessee resident.
2. **Qualifying Petition.** Candidates may obtain a nominating petition from a county election commission office or the office of the Coordinator of Elections. Petitions may be obtained no more than 90 days before the qualifying deadline date. Therefore, petitions may be issued after January 6, 2012. Each page of the petition issued must be signed by the candidate and an election official and may not be photocopied. Additional pages may be obtained as necessary.
3. **Voters' Signatures.** The nominating petition must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) voters who are registered anywhere in Tennessee, and the candidate. The signature of the candidate does not count towards the required twenty-five (25) signatures. Each voter who signs the petition must also supply their residence address as it appears on their voter registration records.
4. **Filing deadline.** Primary candidates must file their nominating petitions no later than NOON on April 5, 2012; candidates who intend to run as independents on the November ballot must also file their petitions by noon on April 5, 2012.
5. **Where to File.** Primary and independent candidates must file their original nominating petition in the office of the State Election Commission and a certified duplicate<sup>1</sup> in the office of the Coordinator of Elections. Both of these must be received by the qualifying deadline listed above and may be mailed to:

Division of Elections  
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue  
William R. Snodgrass Tower, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243  
(615) 741-7956

Primary candidates must also file a certified duplicate by the above qualifying deadline with the chairperson of their party's state executive committee.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, each primary candidate must file one original and two certified duplicates in the respective offices. There are no filing fees.

State Republican Party  
2424 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue South, Suite 200  
Nashville, TN 37212  
(615) 269-4260

State Democratic Party  
1900 Church Street, Suite 203  
Nashville, TN 37203  
(615) 327-9779

6. **Campaign Contribution and Disclosure Filings.** Candidates should contact the Federal Election Commission for information regarding campaign contribution and disclosure reports and filing requirements. The address and phone number is as follows:

Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20463  
(800) 424-9530 #4

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<sup>1</sup> A certified duplicate is a photocopy of the original petition with the words "This is a true copy of the original" signed by the person making the copy along with the copier's name, title and date.

<sup>2</sup> Contact the party executive committee for any additional requirements regarding the certified duplicate.